



**LOOK
INSIDE FOR
DETAILS:**

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday.

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

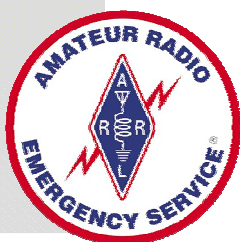
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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

May 2006

Issue No. 422

What's Goin' On

Article by Dick Bitner W8HYD, RARS President

Two big things to report this month. I can't say how happy I am to announce that with this edition of the Exciter, Courtney Enzor, KI4HOS will be the Editor. She has a professional interest in marketing and is working in marketing communications. I am very pleased to report she

is as excited about taking over as I am in moving on to other club interests.

With that said, there has been a good deal of interest expressed in serving as an active contributor to the Exciter. I am going to reissue the call for YOU to send in ideas and items that interest you and relate to our great hobby. Each one of us is interested in some form of ham radio of

which others may not be fully aware. Perhaps you like DXing or weak signal VHF. Maybe you are intrigued by antenna design or stealth operations. Whatever your interest, write it up, and we'll get it edited and make sure the spelling is correct (I'm exempt of any spelling requirements), and share your ham radio interests (Continued on page 4)

President Mandates FEMA Training for Emergency Communications Volunteers

Article by Bob Conder K4RLC, Training Officer, Wake County ARES

Through Homeland Security Presidential Directive Number Five, President Bush mandated the Director of Homeland Security to develop the Na-

tional Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS was established to provide "a consistent national template to enable all government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents." This covers both man-made incidents such as terrorism, or natural disas-

ters, such as the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As part of this development, certain FEMA courses have become required for governmental and private sector emergency workers. ARRL asked for clarification from the Department of Home- (Continued on page 4)

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

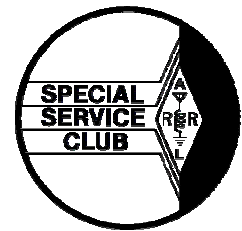
The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (RARS.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur

Radio Society and is available in both print and electronic formats. Club members receive the printed version in the mail prior to each club meeting. The PDF (electronic) ver-

sion is posted on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members can also choose to have the PDF version emailed directly to them by contacting the treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please

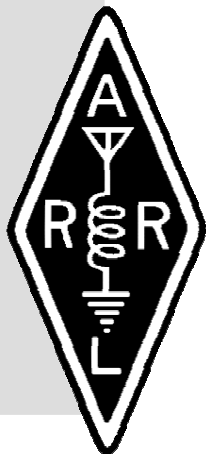
contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Editor:

Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS

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President's Corner



RARS President
Dick Bitner
W8HYD

HAMFest Report Next Month

The 2006 RARSFest will be over by the time you read this. I wanted to thank each and every one of you who gave your time and energy to make the day(s) a success. A special thank you to K4HM for his devotion to this project

over the years. Things have not gotten any easier with rent increases, conflicting dates for the facility, and rising gas costs holding down attendance. As president, I am very thankful for all the help.

I also want to offer special thanks to Mary Jo, K4MJL and her team for coordinating the social. Lots of work goes into that as well, and it is a major reason for our continued drawing of quality vendors.

There will be changes in 2007, of that we all can be sure.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm .
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

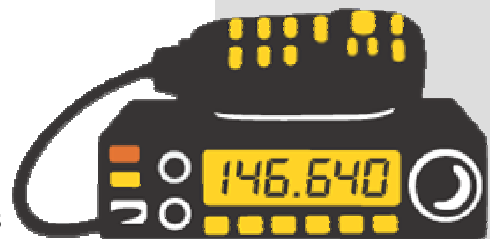
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



Visit the RARS website for up-to-minute announcements, current information, and special features at www.rars.org.

What's Goin' On (continued)

(Continued from page 1)
with others.

How about a short biography? Pictures of your shack, a special award, or anything that will show off ham radio in a positive light. You can share them and grow the hobby as well.

Join me in welcoming Courtney as editor.

The second thing of real importance is that we also have a new Education Director. NC4VA, who is also very active in all aspects of public service, has agreed to take on the task of coordinating classes. We are be-

ginning a series as this is being delivered. We are working with CISCO on this first series. I will continue to teach, on occasion, but to all of you who have expressed a desire to assist with classes, give Virginia a hand.

73, W8HYD

President Mandates FEMA Training for Emergency Communications Volunteers (continued)

(Continued from page 1)
land Security regarding the need for ham radio operators to complete these courses. Paul Ganem, at the NIMS Integration Center, provided this response, published in the March ARES E-letter from ARRL: "Yes. In a response scenario...there needs to be common terminology and doctrine that everyone can follow so that personnel and resources are feathered together in a seamless manner. This is especially true for radio communications. Radio operators need to be able to understand what is being said and what is being asked of them during an incident so that they can convey this information effectively

and efficiently."

The courses now required of those Emergency Communications (EmComm) hams wishing to work with Wake County ARES or the Central Branch of North Carolina ARES are: a) IS-700 National Incident Management System, an Introduction; b) IS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System; and c) IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents. Courses should be taken in that order.

Simply stated, the purpose of the courses is not to change our roles as EmComm volunteers, but to make us better communicators by knowing the overall framework of the organi-

zations we serve and the chain of command. The Wake ARES website has a link for these courses from the FEMA Emergency Management Institute at www.wakeares.org. The courses are provided free of charge. However, they have to be completed by October 1, 2006.

Here's a practical example of how these courses can help: After Hurricane Katrina in the Mississippi Gulf, I was at the back-up Emergency Operations Center in Pearlinton, as the original EOC, City Hall, and Police Station had all been destroyed. In one room there were workers from FEMA, Police, Fire, EMS, Highway Patrol, City and

County Government, Red Cross, Salvation Army, National Guard, and Ham Radio. If they were not able to speak a common language, communications would have been like the Bible story of the Tower of Babel. Fortunately, everyone was able to communicate.

Wake ARES also recommends at least the Level One ARRL Emergency Communications course and the community-based American Red Cross First Aid/CPR and AED course.

Please feel free to contact me for further information or comments.

Hamfest Calendar

May 13*	Eden, North Carolina
May 19-21	Dayton, Ohio
May 20	Williamston, North Carolina
May 20	Greenville, North Carolina
May 27*	Durham, North Carolina
June 10	Winston-Salem, North Carolina
June 24-25	Field Day
July 1	Salisbury, North Carolina
July 15	Cary, North Carolina

Dates courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal.

*Date not yet confirmed.

May Birthdays

Ray	K4RMV	5/2
John Robert	KG4HGB	5/4
Larry	W4WIV	5/5
Liz	KO4CK	5/5
Larry	KG4FIQ	5/5
Bonnie Hiltenbrand		5/7
Alanna	K4AAC	5/8
Franco	KE4IBB	5/8
Hank	K4HM	5/8
Hughie	KF4RDU	5/8
Wayne	K6TWX	5/8
Christopher	N4VGK	5/9
Carla	KB4MDY	5/9
Brian	KA9QJT	5/10
Nancy	KB1HIX	5/10
Mike	KB4BKH	5/11
Chuck	AE4CD	5/12
Mike	KN4BS	5/13
Ed	WA4PEN	5/13
Larry	K1ZW	5/20
Tom	K4ZAD	5/21
Courtney	KI4HOS	5/27
Lynn	KG4LTM	5/27
Larry	KD5ZTX	5/31

March 2006 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net

Check-ins: 424

Traffic: 29/29

Minutes: 806

Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets

Check-ins: 50

Minutes: 380

Sessions: 7

Spotlight on: Public Service

What's Public Service All About?

The purpose of RARS public service is to provide opportunities for amateur radio operators to contribute their skills and equipment in support of community service organizations across the RTP area. We do this as our way of saying "Thanks!" for use of the amateur radio spectrum provided to us by the federal government.

From charitable event support to emergency communications, there are many opportunities to help your community.

Whatever your area of interest, there's a public service arena where you can have fun and provide valuable aid for local, regional, and national organizations. Stay tuned for public service announcements – we need you!

Information from www.rars.org.

Left: Amateur Radio Operators AL KE4IHX, Dick KD4ISC, and Ronnie W4RJF aid with the 7th Annual Autism Ribbon Run. Photos by Steve KJ4BX & Lillian KC4AYH.



Above: RARS provided communications for the Eastern Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament at East Wake High School. Pictured left to right: Gil KG4YJG, Brian KA9QJT, John KG4SWI, Dick KD4ISC, and Connie (Dick's XYL).



Above: Jim KB4BZ and Bruce KC4UQN help with the Red Cross First Aid communications for the NC State Fair. Photo by Gary KN4AQ.

73s to Joe Homovec WA4ENZ



Left: Joe Homovec, WA4ENZ

Article by KH (Bert) Bailey, W4FMN

An old-timer with RARS, Joe will be sorely missed by many. Born in Cleveland, OH on April 14, 1922, he passed away on December 13, 2005 in Raleigh, NC.

Before he started his downward path from his typically healthy lifestyle, Joe participated in many ham activities. Winning DXCC, WAS, and many other similar awards, he was especially fond of 2M and maintaining contact with many of his fellow operators. When I was the EC of Wake County in '79-'86, RARS helped out in many simulated emergencies as well as some for real. Having to corral volunteers on short notice, too often I got, "Sorry, my wife and I have other plans,"

or "Wish I could help, but I'll be out of town," etc. But Joe would invariably spit out: "OK, Bert. When and

where do you need me." Always reliable, truthful Joe was forever checking and tinkering with his collection of ham equipment as a skilled troubleshooter and very adept at maintaining his gear at top operating levels. No QRTs! Always in good spirits and a congenial type to associate with and enjoy, his last years on earth hampered his troubleshooting of yore. Vision and memory were on a downward trend. But Joe was most fortunate in having such a loving, caring XYL, Ginny, who was constantly at his side for his last years at home and hospitals. During his last seven months, Ginny was at his side almost constantly. She was indeed a guardian angel.

Joe was tough. In the Navy, serving on destroyer escorts during three years of WWII, he worked in the roughest location aboard any Navy ship – the engine room. Even more sweat fell when enemy

subs fired their torpedoes! After the war, Joe worked at an electronics firm in Cleveland. Ever his neighbor's helper, he also worked for the local Fire Department. One day on a double date, he passed time at an ice cream parlor. His date introduced him to – Ginny. They both worked for the same electronics firm! After a two-year courtship getting acquainted, they became husband and wife. In many ways, it had to be a perfect match. The family finally included Carol (age 53), Richard, and Bill (age 50). Carole was hit in the shoulder by that madman who went wild at North Hills some years ago. The bullet still remains in her shoulder, complicating her recovery. Her loving family, typically, helped ease the transition.

In summary, top ham WA4ENZ, the perfectionist, a devoted husband with a devoted XYL and a loving family, will not soon be forgotten. We all most sincerely bid Joe fond 73s es gud DX in that Hamdom in the Heavens and 88s to his beloved XYL, Ginny.

RARS

remembers

Joe for his

years of

service and

extends its

condolences to

the Homovec

family.

Board Meeting - March 2006

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for March 2006

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on March 21, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board –Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, Steve Worley, KB4HDQ and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Rod Thomson, KI4LSN.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and second by Chuck K4HF, the February 2006 Board meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

Officers' Reports

Greg KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 280 RARS members. The club membership includes 186 ARRL members.

Selene KG4RMT provided the Vice President's report.

- The April program will be a RARSfest preview and field day warm-up.

The meeting rooms at the church are now reserved and correct. The church office reminded us to clean up and remove trash after the general meeting.

Committee Reports

Education – Dick W8HYD reported the technician class is set to be taught at the Cisco campus at RTP. This 'weekend warrior' class will be held on April 29 (8:30-12:30), May 13 (8:30-12:30) and June 3 (8:30-3:00). The VE session will be held on the June 3rd date.

Exciter – Dick W8HYD advised the search for an editor of the newsletter is still underway. There have been several people express interest in helping out.

Membership – Mary Jo K4MJL advised all is going well. There have been several new members join recently. She will mail out follow up notes to new members and visitors.

Public Information - Gary KN4AQ reported on a recent ham radio antenna article in the Wilmington Star newspaper as well as other related antenna commentary.

Nets – Mary KG4OQA advised all is well with the nets. She will report the net stats to Greg for inclusion in the Exciter until an editor is named.

Webmaster – Dick W8HYD introduced Steve KB4HDQ as the new webmaster. Steve reported that he's getting up to speed on the club's webpage. RTPNET (our webpage host) has turned up the spam filtering for the site. Additional email addresses are also available for the club's use.

Board Meeting - March 2006

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised the RARSfest flyers are available for distribution. A fox hunt will take place during the fest with the fox being provided by Charles Scharlau, NZ0I. A J-pole building station will be set up by the tech table and a special event station will run during the hamfest. Plans are being made for the worker's picnic. The event will be held on either July 9 or 16. Details will be announced later. The next hamfest committee meeting will be held on Monday at Gary's (KN4AQ) home.

VE Team – Dick W8HYD reported a practice exam session was given for the students at Powell Elementary.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC advised that RARS and members of the DFMA provided communications support for the March 4 Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. He has also been asked for support of the April 1 MS Walk at RTP, the Summer Special Olympics on June 2, 3 and 4 and the July 4th Firecracker Bike event.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF reported ARRL has started its new "Hello" program for amateur radio.

Unfinished Business

The search continues for a public service coordinator.

New Business

Dick W8HYD advised he had been questioned by Bob Conder, K4RLC, about the status of the club's outgoing QSL service. Cards have not been collected for a long time. This service was initiated and maintained by Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO. Dick will check with Jeff to see if he is still supporting this service. If not, Bob will be approached to see if he will pick up the job.

The group was reminded that budget season is approaching. A draft budget will be started at the April meeting. A financial review is also due by the June time frame. The Board will need to finalize the budget at the May meeting so that it will be available for the general membership to approve at the June general meeting.

General Comments

Dick KD4ISC expressed concern over the declining participation of the RARS membership in public service events. There have been no volunteers for the Summer Special Olympics. If no one comes forward to participate by the April general meeting then he will advise the event coordinator that RARS will not be able to provide the requested support. Dick then asked for the status of the donated goods from Mike Hollingsworth. Greg KE4PAX advised that a smaller number of items than expected has been received so far. These items will be made available for purchase at RARSfest.

Selene KG4RMT reported that the July general meeting will fall on July 4. After a brief discussion, it was decided not to postpone or change the July meeting date.

Hank K4HM advised that the table layout at the hamfest is changing. Tables will be ordered at the last minute to save money. New locations for future RARSfests are still being investigated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

General Meeting - April 2006

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for April 2006

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on April 4, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

The following visitors were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: Ray Powell KC4JWK and his wife Mary, Scott Goodman KI4OCF and Randy Gardner KI4OAV.

Dick W8HYD made the following announcements:

- The next RARS dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 11 at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ is restarting the RARS 10 meter net. The net will be held on the Wednesday following the general membership meeting at 9 pm on 28.364 MHz.

David Crawford KF4VXJ reported that FEMA now requires all ARES members to complete the FEMA / NICS 100, 200 and 700 courses in order to participate in emergency activities. The cutoff to complete these courses is believed to be October 2006.

Virginia Enzor NC4VA made the following announcements:

- Basic Skywarn Spotter training is being offered via the Central Carolina Skywarn Net. The first class begins on tonight's net and the second and final class will occur on the following Tuesday. A Power Point presentation for the class is available at the www.ccskywarn.net website.

- An Advance Spotter class will be held during the April 23 RARSfest and will be taught by Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

A 'Weekend Warrior' technician class will be held at the Cisco RTP campus on the following Saturdays: April 29, May 13 and June 3. The last class will include time for the exam.

Dick W8HYD announced that Courtney Enzor KI4HOS has stepped up to become the Exciter editor.

Dick Orander KD4ISC presented a brief photo display of the April 1 MS Walk that was held at RTP. He then thanked the following hams for their support of the walk: K4HF, KA9QJT, KE4IHX, W1REP, WD4KSE, KI4FUD, NI4S, N4HAF, K4AAC, K4RLC, W5PGX, KJ4BX, KC4AYH, KG4SWF and N4LEW. Dick then reported that there have been no volunteers or interest in the June 2 - 4 Summer Special Olympics public service event. He asked if anyone present was interested in coordinating this event. There was no response. Dick advised he would relay the club's disinterest to the Special Olympics contact and check with Bill Cole KG4CXY to see if the Carolina Helping Hams might be interested in the event. Dick then announced that the club has been asked to support the July 4 Firecracker Bike Ride event again this year. He asked the members to check their calendars and advise him of their interest in coordinating and participating in this event.

Gary Pearce KN4AQ announced that Raleigh is hosting the US Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships. The event will be held on April 7 - 9 at Umstead Park. Saturday will be the 2 meter event and Sunday will include the 80 meter competition. Volunteers are needed to assist with this event. More information can be found at www.rars.org.

Dick W8HYD advised that Johnnie Mayfield WA9SZL has emergency batteries for sale. See Johnnie for more details.

General Meeting - April 2006

Hank Montgomery provided the first part of the evening program. He updated and reviewed the details of the April 23 RARSfest. There are still plenty of volunteer worker positions available for the event. All who work at RARSfest will be rewarded with a 'worker's picnic' at Harris Park later in the season. This year's RARSfest is the ARRL State Convention. Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, will be featured at a new ham forum as well as local experts who will be available for a Q&A session. Special event station N4C will be set up during the hamfest and all who work or operate the station are eligible for a special event certificate. There will be an on site fox hunt, J-pole building, VE testing, a Skywarn class and many other activities. All are invited to attend and participate.

Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL related her first hamfest social coordination trials and tribulations. She invited everyone to bring food and participate in this year's activities. The social will be held on Saturday evening before the hamfest.

Selene Montgomery KG4RMT introduced Chip Mack WB4ZVR who presented the second part of the evening program on "Field Day." Chip brought a video presentation looking back on previous RARS field day activities. He also reviewed and invited everyone to this year's event on the weekend of June 24-25.

Door Prizes were won by Mary Jo K4MJL and Alan AB4OZ.

Attendance - 46

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

Amateur Radio Nets



The RARS Technical & Trader's net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

May 16 — "Challenges of Hail Prediction in North Carolina" with Brandon Vincent, General Forecaster with the Raleigh NWS. A PowerPoint will be available; please check out website for availability.

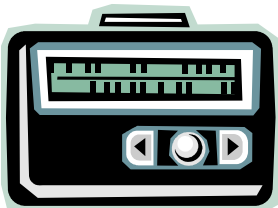
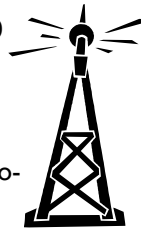
May 23 — National Hurricane Awareness Week. Program and speaker TBA.

Check us out at www.ccskywarn.net.



The VOIP Hurricane net is held Saturdays @ 7 pm on the 440 Carolina linking system. To view the list of linked repeaters, go to www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm.

The NC VOIP for North Carolina net is also held on the 440 Carolina linking system on Sundays @ 7 pm.



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) net** on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes 11 linked repeaters, spanning piedmont and eastern North Carolina. The net will also be connected to the Reflector 921 Channel 1 so other IRLP links can join in on the net.

These are the present frequencies and locations that you can use to access the net:

441.725+ (tone of 100.) Raleigh "Backbone Hub" repeater	
442.075+ (tone of 88.5) Leland	443.075+ (tone of 100.) Clinton
444.150+ (tone of 100.) Clayton	444.325+ (tone of 100.) Holly Springs
444.375+ (tone of 100.) Henderson	444.550+ (tone of 100.) Coats
444.775+ (tone of 100.) Cary	444.775+ (tone of 88.5) Castle Hayne
444.875+ (tone of 100.) Wendell	444.925+ (tone of 100.) Durham



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Congratulate our Winners!



Meet the RARSfest QBH winners! For QBH, contestants send CW using both hips — check out the plywood “Hula Key” pictured in the lower right-hand corner! Contestants are graded on accuracy, speed, rhythm, and “finesse.” Thanks to Bob Conder K4RLC and his wife, Alanna K4AAC, for writing the script. Pictured here are RARS president Dick Bitner W8HYD congratulating K4CZ (first place), K4QPL (second place), and KI4GUO (third place), daughter of K4CZ.